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PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS  
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Case WM 132

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of: Frank Hartmann et al

Title: SOFTTOP VEHICLE ROOF WITH A SEALING ELEMENT

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Commissioner for Patents  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

August 18, 2003

SIR:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT - SECTION 1.97(b)

Under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. Section 1.56, and in accordance with 37 C.F.R. Sections 1.97 and 1.98, applicants' representative hereby submits US Patent & Trademark Office Form PTO-1449. Copies of the references cited therein are submitted for consideration in the examination of the above-referenced patent application. It is respectfully requested that they be made of record, along with whatever references the Examiner may find in the course of a search, should the Examiner consider them material to the subject application.

Some of the references have been discussed in the introductory part of the application, some have been cited during prosecution of the corresponding German application and some of the references have been cited in the international Search report. In the international Search report all the references been marked "A" as relating only to background information with regard to the present application with the exception of DE 299 16 352. However the claims have been amended to distinguish the claimed subject matter from that disclosed in the cited references.

The references do not disclose that, in a soft top vehicle roof which is movable between a closed position and an open storage position and comprises a vehicle roof cover material which is supported by a roof linkage, at least one linkage element of the roof linkage is provided with a reception space in which a seal element and a material web connected to an end portion of the roof cover material are firmly engaged and form-fittingly locked by clamping hooks extending from the inner walls of the reception space through openings in the material web and into recesses in the seal element.

This Statement is hereby submitted under Section 1.97(b) since it is being submitted concurrently with the filing of the above-referenced application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Bach".

Klaus J. Bach, Reg. No.: 26832

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|--|---|--|-----------------|---|-------|------------|----------------------------------|
| FORM PTO-1449  |   | U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE<br>PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE   |                 | ATTY. DOCKET NO.<br><b>WM 132</b>         |       | SERIAL NO. |                                  |
| INFORMATION DISCLOSURE<br>STATEMENT BY APPLICANT                               |   |  |                 | APPLICANT<br><b>Frank Hartmann et al.</b> |       |            |                                  |
| (Use several sheets if necessary)  |   |  |                 | FILING DATE                               |       | GROUP      |                                  |
| <b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>   |   |  |                 |   |       |            |                                  |
| EX.<br>IN.   |   | DOCUMENT NUMBER  | DATE            | NAME                                      | CLASS | SUBCLASS   | FILING DATE<br>IF<br>APPROPRIATE |
|  |   | <b>6,189,950</b>   | <b>02/20/01</b> | <b>Takeo Kawazoe</b>                      |       |            |                                  |
|  |   |  |                 |   |       |            |                                  |
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| <b>FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>  |   |  |                 |   |       |            |                                  |
|  |   | DOCUMENT NUMBER  | DATE            | COUNTRY                                   | CLASS | SUBCLASS   | TRANSLATION<br>YES      NO       |
|  | ✓ | <b>299 23 087 U1</b>   | <b>06/13/01</b> | <b>DE</b>                                 |       |            |                                  |
|  | ✓ | <b>299 16 383 U1</b>   | <b>06/13/01</b> | <b>DE</b>                                 |       |            |                                  |
|  | ✓ | <b>299 16 352 U1</b>   | <b>02/17/00</b> | <b>DE</b>                                 |       |            |                                  |
|  | ✓ | <b>200 02 780 U1</b>   | <b>08/10/00</b> | <b>DE</b>                                 |       |            |                                  |
|  | ✓ | <b>199 42 427 A1</b>   | <b>03/15/01</b> | <b>DE</b>                                 |       |            |                                  |
|  | ✓ | <b>198 01 870 A1</b>   | <b>07/22/99</b> | <b>DE</b>                                 |       |            |                                  |
|  | ✓ | <b>30 29 765 A1</b>  | <b>03/04/82</b> | <b>DE</b>                                 |       |            |                                  |
|  |   | <b>42 28 184 C1</b>  | <b>11/11/93</b> | <b>DE</b>                                 |       |            |                                  |
|  |   | <b>0 521 611 A1</b>  | <b>01/07/93</b> | <b>EP</b>                                 |       |            | <b>N/a</b>                       |
| <b>OTHER DOCUMENTS ( Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)</b> |   |  |                 |   |       |            |                                  |
|  |   | <b>Patent Abstracts of Japan, Publication No: 11129766, SEAL STRUCTURE OF OPEN CAR,<br/>PUBLICATION DATE: 05/18/99</b> |                 |   |       |            |                                  |
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| EXAMINER   |   |  |                 | DATE CONSIDERED                           |       |            |                                  |

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.